

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 to 8 and have been labelled "Replacement Sheet", accordingly.

The changes to Figures 1 to 8 are noted in the Remarks section of this response.

REMARKS

Drawings Objections:

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failure "to adequately label the components with proper identifiers", and stated that "the drawings use symbols not representative of the components".

The Examiner stated that the Applicant should provide "descriptive labels as well as a number in order to easily identify the components". The Applicant has accordingly revised the drawings, appended to this paper as Replacement Sheets Figures 1 to 8. As the Examiner did not specify which particular components were being identified by objectionable symbols, the Applicant has provided a number of very brief text labels. As the components are now adequately labelled and easily identifiable, the Applicant submits that this objection is accordingly overcome.

In addition, the Applicant noted that the reference numerals 249 and 250, employed to identify the ground wires, were inconsistently used. The Applicant has accordingly amended Figures 3, 4 and 7 to correct these typographical errors.

No new matter has been added to the drawings by means of the above-identified amendments.

Amendments to the Specification:

In noting the above-mentioned typographical errors, the Applicant also noted the same typographical errors in three paragraphs of the specification. The amendments to the specification, set out above, are intended to correct these typographical errors. Again, no new matter has been added, but merely the correction of ground wire reference numerals from 250 to 249.

Claims Objections:

The Examiner objected to Claim 1 as reciting "plug isolation means", "socket isolation means" and "electronic isolation means" in such a manner that the claim language is

confusing. The Applicant has accordingly amended Claim 1 to address this objection.

The Examiner also objected to Claim 5 as reciting "the electrical isolation" without sufficient antecedent basis. The Applicant has accordingly amended Claim 5 to address this objection.

Claims Rejections (Anticipation):

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 to 5 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,192,435 to Takahasi.

Takahasi teaches the use of non-coaxial contacts by using a series of 'long terminals' and a single 'short terminal' in a flat two-dimensional package in order to control the flow of current across a computer interface and a peripheral unit. The basis of this teaching is that the current flow is inhibited until the short terminal makes contact and initiates the operation of a switch or switches designed to gradually allow current to flow. This teaching does not address problems caused by the wiping of a number of contacts past each other when being engaged or disengaged due to the circular coaxial nature of the plug/socket barrel design addressed by the present invention, nor does it enable the symmetrical circuits on either side of the plug and socket to be electrically protected regardless of whether the plug-side circuits, socket-side circuits or both are powered prior to the engagement or disengagement of the connector.

Given that the teaching of Takahasi could not be employed to address the technical problem subject of the present application, namely the wiping of contacts during engagement or disengagement of a coaxial connection, the Applicant has amended the independent Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 12 and 14 to incorporate that limitation. It is accordingly believed that the rejection has been fully and adequately overcome.

Claims Rejections (Obviousness):

The Examiner also rejected Claims 6 to 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103, as being unpatentable over Takahasi in view of United States Patent No. 5,726,506 to Wood.

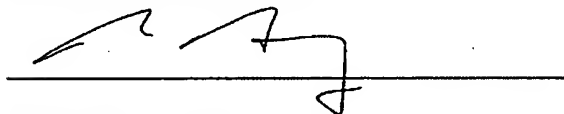
The teaching of Takahasi has been set out above, and distinguished from the present

invention as reflected in the amended claims. Wood teaches a somewhat similar arrangement to Takahasi, whereby several power units and several modules are connected via a backplane power bus. The use of a 'short terminal' and 'long terminals' is employed, along with diodes in the power lines of both power units and modules in order to enable replacement of faulty modules while the system is powered (known as "hot-swapping"). These diodes simply prevent power supply transients that could arise when replacing a module from interfering with other modules already in place. This feature is facilitated by powering the replacement module initially by an alternate power unit during insertion until the short terminal connection is made, at this point enabling the primary power unit to take over. The diodes are used to ensure these various power units do not interfere with each other. The teaching of Wood does not utilize nor anticipate diodes as sensing devices, as is taught and claimed in the present application. The present invention uses diodes to detect the fully engaged state of the coaxial connector, whence detector circuits then engage switches to safely provide power to the circuits associated with the plug or socket systems as appropriate.

Given the above, the amendment of independent Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 12 and 14 incorporate a limitation that is not rendered obvious by the combined teachings of Takahasi and Wood. It is accordingly believed that the rejection has been fully and adequately overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert M. Hendry', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Hendry

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